

WEATHER BUREAU STAFF MEETINGS, 1927 AND 1928

By EDGAR W. WOOLARD, Secretary

The regular biweekly meetings of the Scientific and Technical Staff of the Central Office of the United States Weather Bureau, initiated in the autumn of 1923, have been continued on the same plan as heretofore, during the winter of 1927 and 1928. Following is a list of the discussions (asterisks denote speakers not officially connected with the Weather Bureau); a report of the meetings of 1926 and 1927, with references to the reports of the meetings of previous seasons, will be found in the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW, 1927, 55, 238.

October 4, 1927

H. C. Frankenfield. The Mississippi Flood of 1927.

October 19, 1927

H. H. Kimball. The meetings of the *International Geodetic and Geophysical Union* at Prague, and of the *International Commission for the Exploration of the Upper Air* at Leipzig.

November 2, 1927

*Col. E. Gold. The work of the *International Commission for Synoptic Weather Information*.

*Th. Hesselberg. On the Energy of Winds.

November 16, 1927

J. B. Kincer. The Weather of 1927.

November 30, 1927

O. L. Fassig. Tropical Air Currents.

December 21, 1927

C. F. Marvin. Improvements in weather service for aviation, agriculture, and commerce.

January 11, 1928

Messrs. Marvin, Frankenfield, Humphreys. Report of the meeting of the *American Association for the Advancement of Science* at Nashville.

E. W. Woolard. Report on the meeting of the *American Astronomical Society* at New Haven.

January 25, 1928

A. J. Henry. The winter anticyclone in the Great Basin.

February 8, 1928

Messrs. Woolard, Humphreys, Weightman, Mitchell, and Henry. Symposium on the cyclone.

March 7, 1928

C. L. Mitchell. Cyclones and anticyclones of the northern hemisphere, January–April, inclusive, 1925.

March 21, 1928

C. L. Mitchell. Forecasts for a week in advance based on northern hemisphere weather maps.

April 4, 1928

*H. L. Dryden. Wind pressures on structures.

April 18, 1928

A. J. Henry. A review of Sir Napier Shaw's "Manual of Meteorology," Vol. II.

NOTES, ABSTRACTS, AND REVIEWS

*A New Handbook of the World's Climates*¹ (by Prof. Robert DeC. Ward).—Julius Hann's "Handbuch der Klimatologie" appeared in 1883 as a single-volume publication of a little less than 800 pages. It immediately took its place as the final and authoritative source of information on climate.

The second edition appeared 14 years later and a third edition, much enlarged, 14 years later, having over 1,500 pages and being contained in three instead of a single volume. The time has arrived when a new edition is demanded. Professor Ward remarks:

It is a great satisfaction to be able to make here, at this meeting of the American Meteorological Society, the first public announcement, in the United States, of the preparation of a new handbook of climatology.

This work is to be done under the editorial direction of Doctor W. Köppen, long well known as the meteorologist of the Deutsche Seewarte in Hamburg, a position from which, owing to advancing age, he retired some years ago. His title of admiralitätsrat fittingly recalls his valuable services in marine meteorology. Doctor Köppen is to-day the leading figure in the older school of European meteorologists. * * *

With Köppen as general editor, the authoritative position of the new book is a foregone conclusion. Privatdozent Dr. R. Geiger, of the Bavarian Landeswetterwarte, is associated in editorial supervision.

Some 25 or more authors are to contribute to the new *Handbuch*. Among these the following may be mentioned: Sir Gilbert Walker (India); Griffith Taylor (Australia and New Zealand); T. Okada

(Japan and portions of the East Indies); A. Wegener (Greenland); Karl Sapper (Central America); C. Braak (southeastern Asia and portions of the East Indies); W. Meinardus (Antarctica); K. Knoch (South America); E. Alt (Europe); E. Kuhlbrodt (oceans); L. Berg, A. Kaminskij, and E. Rubinstein (Russia and Siberia); A. Wagner (free air); W. Köppen (geographical system of climate).

The plan is to have all the manuscript in the hands of the editor by December 1, 1930. As the various contributions are received from the different authors they will be at once set up in type, and will be issued as they come off the press. They will also be for sale separately. It is expected that these separate sections will appear at different times during the years 1929–33, the date set for the completion of the whole book being 1933. The size of the page will be large octavo, with about 600 words to a page, printed in fairly small but clear type.

Professor Ward himself has been asked to undertake the discussion of the climates of North America (including British North America and Mexico) and of the West Indies. The task is so great and his time so limited that he has requested Prof. Charles F. Brooks, of Clark University, to collaborate with him in the preparation of the manuscript. * * * Three hundred and thirty pages have been allotted for the discussion of North American climatology; of these 150 will be used for obligatory tables and 20 for charts. The text will be printed in English. One of the important features will be a new set of isothermal and isohyetal charts for

¹ Presented before the American Meteorological Society at its April meeting in Washington, D. C., and printed in full in Bulletin Am. Met. Soc. May, 1928, pp. 94–97.